

Goal 1: Meeting the Needs of a Diverse Population

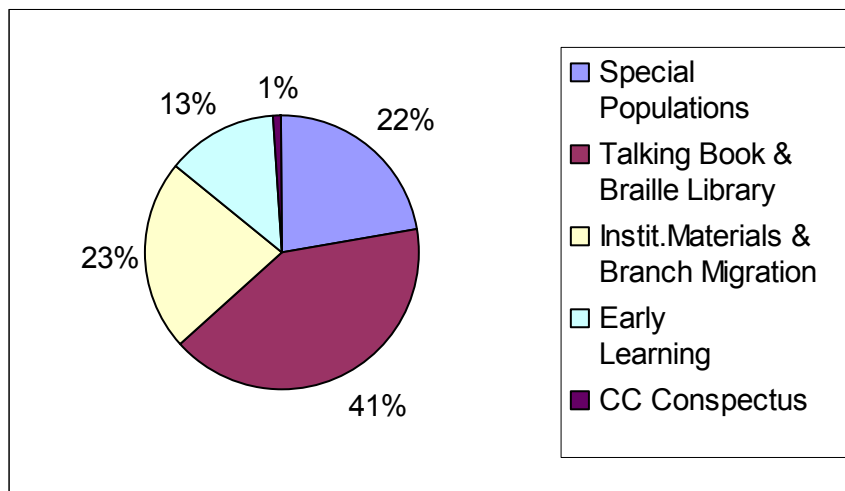
Projects supporting Goal 1 have reached a variety of groups who are traditionally underserved in terms of access to library services (see Table 6 and Figure 4). Over a third of the funds (41%) supporting Goal 1 have been used, in conjunction with funding from other sources, to support the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library to serve the visually impaired population throughout the state. This project serves not only those who are legally blind, but also serves those with limited vision as a result of illness, injury, or age. A quarter of the funds (22%) have been used to support general consulting services for libraries serving special populations, specifically rural and tribal libraries as well as other small libraries in areas with low population density. Another quarter of the funds (23%) have been used to support the institutionalized population of the state, including persons in medical or psychiatric institutions as well as the incarcerated. Over a tenth (13%) has been used to support building library collections and providing services that support the needs of infants, toddlers and preschool age children (i.e. children aged 0-5) and the needs of their parents in relation to learning and parenting. A small amount (1%) has been used to support collection development assessment for community colleges.

Washington State Library staff provide in-depth research and advice for libraries, citizens, and government officials in areas such as legal and governance issues, development of policies and services, relationships between boards and government officials, board responsibilities and interrelationships, setting up library districts, and other service issues. State Library employees develop, conduct, and facilitate continuing education retreats for library staff and boards of trustees.

Table 6: LSTA Funds Allocation for Projects under Goal 1, 1998-2001

	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Community College Conspectus	\$30,000				\$30,000
Special Populations	\$146,728	\$110,573	\$241,382	\$226,397	\$725,080
Washington Talking Book and Braille Library	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$328,000	\$1,312,000
Institutional Materials and Equipment	\$249,944	\$123,940	\$180,259	\$180,000	\$734,143
Branch Migration			\$8,000		\$8,000
Early Learning			\$75,000	\$350,000	\$425,000
Total	\$754,672	\$562,513	\$832,641	\$1,084,397	\$3,234,223

Figure 4: Meeting the Needs of a Diverse Population, 1998-2001 – \$3,234,223



Community College Conspectus

Community colleges provide adult education to all segments of society at affordable costs. This project was a collaborative effort by thirty-two community colleges throughout the state to assess the breadth and depth of collection strength through the use of comparative measures. LSTA funds supplemented other monies provided through the community college system. This collection analysis project provided information that was required for further planning in the areas of resource sharing, interlibrary loan services, and collection management.

Special Populations: The Unserved and Underserved

The goal of this ongoing project is to provide general consulting for staff working in all libraries with emphasis on medium, small, rural, and tribal libraries throughout the state. Consultants provide expertise and assistance in the areas of providing basic library services and access to technology. The primary objective is to empower local libraries as effective agencies for meeting community information needs by supporting and training local library staff.

Washington Talking Book and Braille Library

This project provides free books and magazines in alternate formats that meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the blind, visually impaired, and learning disabled. LSTA funds are supplemented by funds from other sources in supporting this project.

Institutional Materials and Equipment and Branch Migration

This project supports branch libraries in facilities operated by the Department of Corrections and Department of Social and Health Services. These branch libraries provide information services for the incarcerated or mentally disabled inmates and staff. Library automation software in 10 correctional facility libraries and 3 institutional libraries was upgraded. Photocopiers were purchased for libraries in both departments to help protect materials from destruction by inmates (e.g. tearing out of pages) and increasing usage of materials by a greater proportion of the service population. Copying reference materials enables users to spend more time completing homework or self-study assignments. Library materials were purchased for branch libraries on the topics of life skills, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, literacy, self-help, and professional development (for facility staff).

Early Learning Initiative

The Early Learning Initiative has been aimed at improving library services that will meet the developmental needs for birth through pre-school age children and their parents by educating staff about emerging research on brain development and providing them with models for program development. These projects require libraries to work collaboratively with other community groups who provide related services.